

Ability Center of Virginia Garden Report

Project Outcomes

In January 2022, our Ability Day program participants constructed a vision board, a board with pictures of anything they wanted to experience, no matter how big or small. Among these experiences was creating their own vegetable and herb garden at the Ability Center. With your generous grant, we have made this vision come to life and been able to lead them in creating their own garden, teaching them about each step of the process along the way. Over the past two months, program participants have filled all four garden beds with soil, purchased plants, and transplanted plants into the garden beds. Our participants have loved creating their garden step by step and watching it grow from scratch. In the past few weeks, we have been able to watch our plants grow very quickly, and we have even sent participants home with handfuls of fresh herbs for their families. The garden project has provided our participants with a purposeful activity that contributed to both physical and cognitive health, and we are looking forward to integrating it into our programs even deeper.

Financial distribution

The Ability Center's garden project followed the budget that was originally submitted with minimal variation. The main variation in our projected and actual financial distribution is within the soil/compost/mulch category and planting materials category. We were able to purchase the soil and compost at a discounted rate, therefore we could allocate more funds to the planting materials and plants categories. The planting materials category consists of tools, hoses, gloves, pots, strawbales, etc. The remaining \$57 will be used to purchase different plants for the fall such as lettuce, kale, and carrots, to continue the garden when Ability Days resumes in September.

Soil, compost, and mulch: \$180

Planting materials: \$260

Fertilizers and soil supplements: \$43

Plants and seeds: \$195

Fall Plants: \$57

Total \$735

All of us at the Ability Center of Virginia sincerely appreciate your support in this project. We have been happy to acknowledge your contributions in Facebook posts and mass emails with updates on the garden project. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Hardy Plant Society and providing more successful updates on our project soon!

